

CLAIMS

1. A method of monitoring a broadcast signal (28), comprising receiving (200) a broadcast signal (28), the broadcast signal (28) including a timebase (23), monitoring (202) the broadcast signal (28) for an identification signal (24), and pausing (204) the timebase (23) if the identification signal (24) is not present.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the broadcast signal (28) comprises a video component (18), an audio component (20), and a data component (22).
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the timebase (23) is a portion of the data component (22) of the broadcast signal (28).
4. A method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the broadcast signal (28) is a digital signal (28) and the identification signal (24) is present in the data component (22) of the broadcast signal (28).
5. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the broadcast signal is an analogue signal and the identification signal is present in the vertical blanking interval of the broadcast signal.
6. A method according to any preceding claim, and further comprising restarting (206) the timebase (23), once the identification signal (24) is present.
7. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the identification signal (24) is present in the normal data structures describing the video component (22) of the broadcast signal (28).
8. Apparatus for monitoring a broadcast signal (28), comprising receiving means (36) for receiving the broadcast signal (28), the broadcast

signal (28) including a timebase (23), and monitoring means (38) for monitoring the broadcast signal (28) for an identification signal (24), and for pausing the timebase (23) if the identification signal (24) is not present.

5 9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the signal (28) comprises a video component (18), an audio component (20), and a data component (22).

10 10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the timebase (23) is a portion of the data component (22) of the broadcast signal (28).

 11. Apparatus according to claim 8, 9 or 10, wherein the receiving means (36) and the monitoring means (38) are portions of an integrated circuit.

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 12. Apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the apparatus is a digital television receiver (34).

20 13. Apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein the monitoring means (38) is arranged to restart the timebase (23), once the identification signal (24) is present.